

Hanson, MA Area H  
Bryantville  
East Main Street Area Data Sheet

<u>MHC</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Street</u>	<u>Style/Form</u>	<u>Date</u>
135	Blount House	139	Main Street	Queen Anne cottage	1908
136	Hobart House	142	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	1900-1901
137	Gorham House	153	Main Street	Craftsman bungalow	1906
138	Howard House	158	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	1902
139	house	161	Main Street	Classical gambrel block	after 1930
140	Howard House	169	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	1902
141	Beal House	183	Main Street	Classical hipped block	1916
142	Bearce House	184	Main Street	Gothic Revival cape	before 1830
143	Howard House	195	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	1890
144	Estes House	209	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	1850s/1890
8	First Baptist Church	214	Main Street	Greek Revival towered nave	1820
145	Damon House	217	Main Street	Queen Anne end house	?before 1830/1890
146	Damon House	230	Main Street	Italianate end house	1859

FORM A - AREA

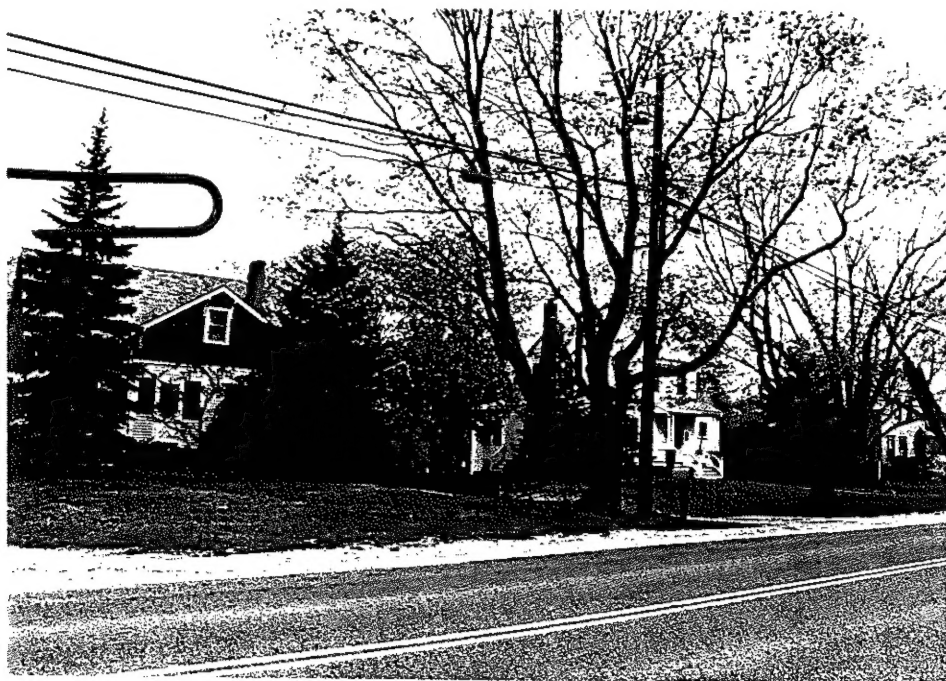
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's #'s  
**39-22, 23, 39, 24, 25, 26,  
27, 27B, 7, 37, 8, 9, 10  
11, 12, 14**

USGS Quad  
**Hanover**

Area  
**H**

Form #  
**135-146**



Town **Hanson**

Place **Bryantville**

Name of Area **East Main Street**

Present Use **Residential**

Construction Dates/Period  
**before 1830-after 1903**

Overall Condition **good to excellent, some  
residing, and other visible modern  
alteration**

Major Instructions and Alterations  
**one mid-twentieth-century cape; one  
very altered house**

Acreage

Recorded by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**

Organization **Hanson Historical  
Commission**

Date **May 1996**

Sketch Map

*See continuation sheet*

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION** see continuation sheet

The East Main Street area contains a group of well-preserved, mostly modest, primarily late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular and popular residential forms. This group is located in Bryantville, an area that straddles the Hanson-Pembroke town line. The area also includes an 1820s towered nave church (see form no. B), an early nineteenth-century cape with Gothic Revival detailing (184 Main Street), and a mid-nineteenth century expanded Greek Revival end house (230 Main Street). The forms and styles represented in this group display the range of additional massing and decorative detailing characteristic of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses. The houses, which line both sides of a primary east-west thoroughfare through the south part of Hanson, generally have suburban set-backs and mature landscape features indicative of their development period. Intrusions in this otherwise cohesive area are a modern cape (204 Main Street) and a much altered end house that is set back considerably from the street (172 Main Street). Because of the topography, the flatter north side of the street was developed first and contains the two oldest houses in the area. All of the houses on the south side of the street date to no earlier than the last decade of the nineteenth century, and include several converted barns moved from other locations.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE** see continuation sheet

Main Street has long been a primary east-west thoroughfare in the southern half of Hanson. Portions, however, remained largely undeveloped until the end of the nineteenth century. This East Main Street area is one of two clusters of concentrated late nineteenth century development along this major artery, either replacing or supplementing earlier scattered development. Valuation lists show that the house lots were generally one to two acres. Barns or stables, and hen and wood houses were the most common outbuildings in the early twentieth century. Most of the property holders owned little livestock or more than 15 acres of pasture, wooded, tilling or meadow land. Historic maps show that by 1856 three buildings were present in the area, all on the north side of the street. Two of these survive: the First Baptist Church at 214 Main Street constructed in 1820 (see form no. B) and the Bearse House at 184 Main Street, constructed before 1830. Joseph White indicates this house was constructed by Joseph Bearse in 1816. Historic maps show he continued to own it until sometime after 1856. By 1879 Bearse's son-in-law Willard Howard owned the house. Howard, a local developer and farmer, "improved" the house and continued to occupy the house into the 1920s. In the early twentieth century Howard's extensive building holdings included a windmill, tool house, store house, and cranberry house.

**REFERENCES**

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903
- White, Houses of Hanson
- Town of Hanson Valuation Lists, 1856, 1879

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. See NR Criteria Statement form.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community  
**Hanson**Property Address  
**Main Street, Hanson**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125Form # **135-146**Area **East Main Street, Bryantville, H****Architectural Description, continued.**

The oldest house in this group is the Gothic Revival styled **Bearse House at 184 Main Street** (form no. **142**), a one-and-one half story cape that was stylistically updated with a pair of large-scaled, steeply-pitched facade gables. The original one-and-one-half story ell has been augmented with an additional two-story ell. The large, one-story gabled barn with a cross-gable now has three garage door openings along the street elevation.

The variety of massing elements on the **Damon House at 230 Main Street** (form no. **146**) combines the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Like six other houses in this area, this one-and-one-half story end house is three bays wide by two piles deep with a one-and-one-half story gabled wing. The main mass is further augmented by a two-story mansard-roofed wing on the right side elevation, large gabled wall dormers on both side elevations and a shed-dormer on the gabled wing. A full-width screened front porch spans the gabled wing. This shingled building displays Italianate detailing including Tuscan corner pilasters, a wide entablature, and flat window hoods supported by brackets above vernacular dentils.

The other six end houses include the **Hobart House at 142 Main Street** (form no. **136**), the **Howard Houses at 158 and 169 Main Street** (form nos. **138, 140**), the **Holmes House at 209 Main Street** (form no. **144**), the **Damon House at 217 Main Street** (form no. **145**). Five of the end houses have gabled one-and-one-half story wings and various smaller-scaled additional massing features. The Howard Houses, located on opposite sides of the street, are reverse images of each other. Three of the houses (nos. 142, 158, and 169) have full-width front porches on the wing though 158 Main Street's porch is now enclosed. 209 Main Street, which has a smaller wing than the others, has a porch that runs along the side elevation to the wing. At 217 Main Street the porch extends to the wing but also runs across the full-width of the facade. Characteristic Queen Anne style additional massing elements on the houses include gabled wall dormers (217 Main Street); shed-roofed wall dormers on both side elevations at the second pile (158 and 169). 142 and 217 Main Street have polygonal bay windows on the right-half of their facades and 142 Main Street also has one at the first pile on the left-side elevation. 217 Main Street has a hip-roofed dormer and an overscaled gabled wall dormer to augment the interior spaces at the second pile. 142 and 169 Main Street also have modern, one-story wing additions (142 and 169).

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Hanson

Main Street, Hanson

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Form # 135 - 146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H

**Architectural Description, continued.**

On this group of end houses, the Queen Anne style is suggested primarily by the massing elements as the ornamentation is either very restrained or has been lost due to residing. The wing on the aluminum sided Hobart House at 142 Main Street is decorated with colored slate pattern. 142, 158, 169, and 209 Main Street display overscaled scrolled brackets supporting their entry hoods as their primary ornamentation and all but 158 Main Street have turned posts on their porches. The most atypically decorated, and also the most altered of the houses, is 217 Main Street which has patterned shingles in the gables and large-scale triple windows with diamond-pattern decoration along the right-side elevation (obviously a twentieth century alteration.)

The **Howard House** at 195 Main Street (form no. 143), the seventh end house in the area, is well-preserved and an especially nice example of a Queen Anne end house. Its additional massing elements vary from the other six end houses: two-story gabled square bays augment the interior at the second pile on both side elevations and a shed-roofed dormer expands the space to the rear of the right-side square bay. The hip-roofed entry porch that shields the left-side entry wraps around the left-side elevation to the square bay. On the right-side elevation the square bay is framed by shed-roofed porches. The refined detailing on the porches includes turned posts, corner brackets and a latticed frieze and the exterior wall surfaces are elaborated with a variety of shingle patterns.

The other four houses in this area are examples of familiar early twentieth-century house types. The **Blount House** at 139 Main Street (form no. 135) is a picturesque Queen Anne cottage, examples of which are scattered throughout the New England landscape. The most distinctive features of this type of two-story gable block are the extended roof slope that creates a recessed porch on one-half of the facade and an overscaled gabled dormer overhanging a polygonal bay window. on the other half of the facade. Additional massing features on this shingled gable block augment the interior at the second pile: a square oriel topped by a gable supported by over-scaled brackets on the left-side elevation and a two-sided oriel on the right-side elevation. Ornamentation includes Tuscan columns on a solid parapet on the front porch and ornamental brackets atop the corner boards.

Examples of suburban house types include the **Gorham House** at 153 Main Street (form no. 137), 161 Main Street (form no. 139), and the **Beal House** at 183 Main Street (form no. 141). 153 Main Street is a somewhat unusual, simply-massed and minimally ornamented bungalow. A one-and-one half story cross-gable dominates the right two-thirds of the facade of this one-and-one-half story gable block. Shed-roofed dormers augment the rear elevation, as does a one-story rear addition. The simple ornament on this clapboarded and shingled house consists of trussed brackets under the wide eaves. 161 Main Street is a small-scale gambrel block in the

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property Address

Hanson

Main Street, Hanson

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, MA 02125

Form # 135-148

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H

**Architectural Description, continued.**

Classical style. The facade is dominated by a large-scale gabled dormer above the shed-roofed entry porch. The three-bay wide by two-bay-deep gambrel block is augmented by a rear ell. Characteristic detailing includes front porch ornamentation consisting of paired thin Tuscan columns atop fieldstone pedestals. The Beal House is one of the largest houses in this area. This five-bay wide by two-pile deep hipped- block in the Classical style has three additional massing elements. These include a full-width front porch, a hip-roofed dormer on the facade, and two-story polygonal bays on both side elevations at the first pile.

A number of this group of twelve houses retain their original carriage houses or stables, indicative of the area's continued rural residential characteristics into the early twentieth century. These include the Gorham House at 139 Main Street (a large stable with cupola); 161 Main Street (gambrel-roofed carriage house); the Beal House at 183 Main Street (gabled stable); and the Bearse House at 184 Main Street (large gabled stable with cross-gable).

**Historical Narrative, continued.**

The Damon House at 230 Main Street replaced an earlier Damon House at this location that dated to before 1830. Joseph White indicates Elijah Damon constructed this house in the late 1850s. The dramatic rise in valuation between 1856 and 1879 of Damon's house confirms this date of construction. Whereas the earlier building was valued at \$600, by 1879 Damon's house was valued at \$2500, one of the higher valued properties in town at the time. Damon's extensive property holdings included over 30 acres of cedar swamp, an acre of cranberry bogs, a cider house and new cider mill, located behind the house; and a hog house and hog cook house. Historic maps show that at that time Damon also owned a small house and large barn on the south side of the street. By the turn of the century 230 Main Street was owned by Hubert A. Gorham, a superintendent of a cranberry bog, who continued to own the house until after 1930.

Historic maps show that six houses in the area date to the period 1879 to 1903. According to Joseph White the houses fall into two periods of construction, 1890 or 1900-1902. Two of the houses, the Howard Houses at 158 and 169 Main Street, were constructed by Austin B. Howland (his house was just west of this East Main Street area boundary) for Willard Howard in 1902. Howard, who still owned the houses in 1903, sold these properties to George Wilson and Luke W. Hemmingway, respectively. Wilson and Hemmingway continued to own their houses into the early 1930s. Austin B. Howland was responsible for constructing a number of other buildings in the area. He converted two outbuildings on Elijah C. Damon's property to houses. The Estes House at 209 Main Street was originally a carriage house attached to Damon's stable. In 1890 it was moved to its present location and converted to a house. The first identified

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
Main Street, Hanson

Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Form # 135-146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H

**Historical Narrative, continued.**

owner is William Estes, a shoemaker, whose modest property holdings in 1903 included a windmill and tank. By the early 1930s the house was owned by Mrs. Joseph Holmes. The Damon House at 217 Main Street was a barn, originally located closer to the south side of the street. In 1890 it was moved to its present location and converted to a house. Nothing is known about the first identified owner, W. Tucker. By the early 1930s the house was owned by John Briggs. In the same year Howland also built the Howard House at 195 Main Street for Channing Y. Howard, the Bryantville postmaster and general store owner, who continued to own the house into the early 1930s. The Hobart House at 142 Main Street was built by George Howland of East Bridgewater for George Hobart, a cranberry grower, in 1900-1901, whose wife continued to own the house in the early 1930s. This date of construction seems late, however, for the house's massing and decorative detailing, which resemble those used a quarter of a century earlier.

The rest of the houses in the area date to after 1903. According to Joseph White, the Gorham House at 153 Main Street was constructed in 1906 by Wendell Phillips of Duxbury for Ephraim A. Gorham, who still owned the house in the early 1930s. The Blount House at 139 Main Street was built by Robert Calder in 1908 for Charles H. Blount who still owned the house in the early 1930s. Calder built a group of houses in the South Hanson Main Street area (see area no. 6). The Beal House at 183 Main Street was built in 1916 by James M. Bourne for Herman Beal who still owned the house in the early 1930s. 161 Main Street appears to date to after the early 1930s. White makes no mention of the house and the original owner remains unknown at this time.

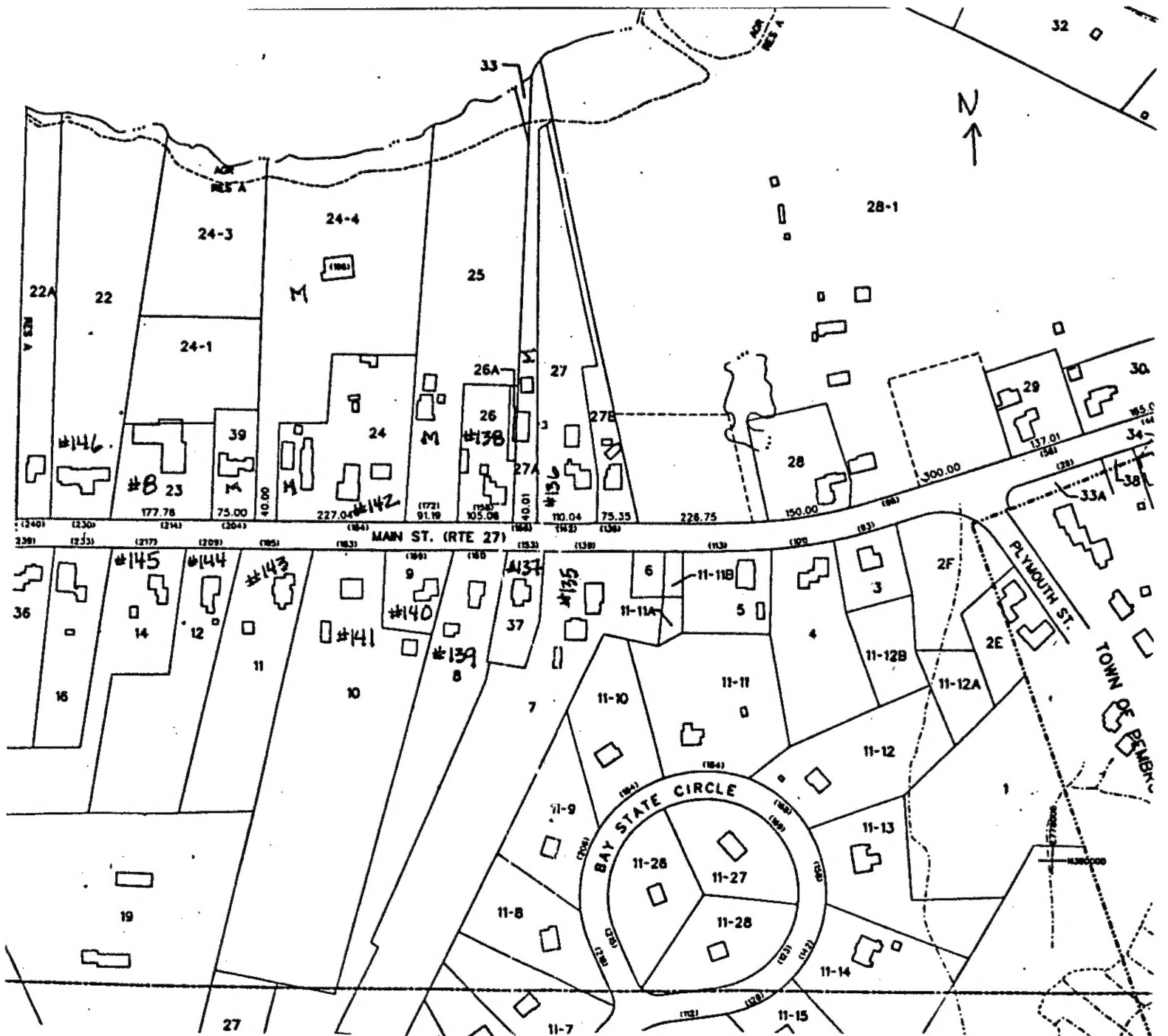
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Community  
**Hanson**

Property Address  
**Main Street, Hanson**

Form # 135-146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston MA 02125

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
Main Street, Hanson

Form # 135-146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H



← 139 Main



↓ 142 Main



← 153 Main

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston MA 02125

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
Main Street, Hanson

Form # 135-146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H

158 Main →



↓ 161 Main



↓ 169 Main



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston MA 02125

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
Main Street, Hanson

Form # 135-146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston MA 02125

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
Main Street, Hanson

Form # 135-146

Area East Main Street, Bryantville, H



209 Main  
←



217 Main ↓



230 Main  
←

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
Main Street

Area  
14

Form #  
135-146

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☐ Individually eligible.  
☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.  
☒ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Dempsey/Driemeyer.

The Bryantville, East Main Street area is significant as an important surviving cluster of historic buildings in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. In this area, many of the town's primary house types can be found, with a particularly strong cluster of late 19th century end houses and other turn-of-the-century forms. The village of Bryantville stretches across the town boundary into Pembroke, and future review should consider properties there. The Bryantville, East Main Street area meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.